

Stock Use Regulations in Devils Postpile National Monument

Many people enjoy animal packing in the backcountry. Devils Postpile National Monument encourages these backcountry users to observe "Leave No Trace" practices while travelling and camping with pack animals. Leaving no trace depends as much on attitude and awareness as on rules and regulations. Minimize your impact on the land and toward other visitors. Practicing good trail etiquette helps ensure that everyone enjoys the visit; and it establishes a better understanding between different wilderness users, that benefits all.

Trail Courtesy and Regulations:

Stay on the trails.

Monument staff, partners, and volunteers work hard to maintain the John Muir Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Rainbow Falls trail in order to accommodate heavy use. This trail maintenance and your efforts to "Leave No Trace" minimize impact on wildlife, soil, and vegetation. The Monument would like to recognize the special contributions of four groups who work diligently to repair trail damage from previous use: Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews from Yosemite National Park, YCC crews from Joshua Tree National Park, the California Conservation Corps in Fresno, and the Devils Postpile Student Conservation Associate Trail Crew.

Ride single file on the designated trail; do not shortcut trails or switchbacks.

When traveling on switchbacks and steep trails with limited visibility, travel slowly and be cautious of approaching riders, backpackers, and other users. Muddy stretches and most snow banks should be crossed rather than skirted.

Few hikers know that they should pull off to the downhill side of the trail when encountering stock.

You may need to ask hikers to stop while you pass. If instead, you are the one being overtaken, remember the hiker is packing a load, and has a right to be on the trail too. Find a good spot to let them pass. A little conversation while passing each other may reduce the chances of frightening the horse.

Camping with stock is not allowed anywhere in the Monument. Several stock campsites are located in nearby Agnew Meadows Campground.

These area-specific regulations supplement the minimum impact regulations and guidelines. All areas within the Monument are closed to grazing. The regulations defining stock and areas open to stock, as designated in 36 CFR §2.16- HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS, are as follows:

The following animals are designated as pack animals for the purposes of transport:

- Horses
- Mules
- Burros
- Llamas

The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas:

- The John Muir Trail
- The Pacific Crest Trail
- The King Creek Trail
- On Rainbow Falls Trail, and at hiking and horse trail junction, then only on the stock trail through to the hitching post.

The only horse crossing of the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River in Devils Postpile National Monument is at the Lower Arch Bridge. There are no river crossings allowed in open water.

Please consider packing weed-free feed for your stock. The spread of exotic plants in the Sierra Nevada has compromised many Sierran meadows, forests, and wildlife. Each year, Devils Postpile spends hundreds of staff hours, and volunteer time to remove these noxious weeds.